

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00200 101104Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101105Z 122759 /10
O 101040Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5719

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0200

EXDIS

FOR AF ASST SECY SCHAUFELER ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV OTRA SF (MARAIS, JAN)
SUBJ: REQUEST FROM JAN MARAIS

1. DR. JAN MARAIS, CHAIRMAN OF LARGE TRUST BANK GROUP AND PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION (SAF), HAS APPROACHED ME WITH UNUSUAL REQUEST WHICH WARRANTS YOUR CONSIDERATION. HE SAID THAT ON MARCH 18 HE HAS TO MAKE ANNUAL ADDRESS TO SAF CONFERENCE. HE IS THINKING OF USING THIS AS FORUM FOR CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MEANINGFUL STEPS TO MOVE AWAY FROM APARTHEID AND THEREBY OPEN WAY FOR GREATER COOPERATION WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE READ ME PORTION OF FIRST DRAFT OF HIS REMARKS IN WHICH HE CALLS FOR: AN END TO ALL DISCRIMINATION BASED ON COLOR; RESTORATION OF FRANCHISE TO COLOREDS AND INDIANS; REDEFINITION OF HOMELANDS INTO VIABLE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNITS; AND ASSISTANCE TO URBAN BLACKS TO DEVELOP INTO A GENUINE MIDDLE CLASS. MARAIS SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN FRAMING HIS SPEECH IF HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS HIS IDEAS WITH HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN A FEEL FOR WHAT THE USG IS SEEKING IN THE WAY OF ACTIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE SOUTH AFRICA MORE ACCEPTABLE TO US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SPEAKING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG, SENATOR CLARK, SECRETARY VANCE AND YOU. HE IS PREPARED TO FLY TO WASHINGTON AT HIS OWN EXPENSE TO DO THIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00200 101104Z

2. I TOLD HIM THAT POINTS HE HAD LISTED WOULD REPRESENT IMPORTANT STEPS THAT WE AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED STATES

WOULD WELCOM. I WARNED THAT IF HIS IDEA IS TO EXPLORE
USG REQUIREMENTS IN EXCHANGE FOR WHICH SA COULD EXPECT
PREDETERMINED RESPONSE, (HE HAS SPOKEN TO ME IN PAST ALONG
THIS LINE), I DID NOT THINK THIS WAS PRODUCTIVE
APPROACH TO TAKE. THE SAG KNOWS HOW THE WORLD LOOKS
UPON APARTHEID AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO OVERCOME
THIS OBSTACLE WITHOUT OUTSIDERS SPECIFYING CONDITIONS.
HE HASTILY BACKED OFF FROM ANY SUGGESTION OF QUID-PRO-QUO
APPROACH IN FAVOR OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.
I TOLD HIM I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON
AND LET HIM KNOW.

3. AT A TIME WHEN IMPORTANT LEADERS OF THE AFRIKANER
BUSINESS COMMUNITY ARE BEGINNING TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST
SAG POLICIES (SEE CAPE TOWN 0199), IT WOULD BE
USEFUL TO HAVE A PERSON OF MARAIS' STANDING ADD HIS
VOICE. IF OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO A FEW US POLICY
MAKERS WOULD HELP MARAIS DECIDE TO SPEAK OUT, I THINK
IT WOULD BE WORTH THE INVESTMENT. AFRIKANER BUSINESS
COMMUNITY IS SECTOR LEAST VULNERABLE TO GOVERNMENT
PUNITIVE ACTION AND IS THEREFORE THE MOST OUTSPOKEN.
WHEN ITS LEADERS SPEAK OUT, THEY ENCOURAGE ACADEMICS,
PRESS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO STATE THEIR VIEWS. THIS
IS ROAD TO INFLUENCING AFRIKANER RANK AND FILE WHICH IS
KEY TO GETTING GOVERNMENT TO MOVE. THEREFORE, DISCREET
ENCOURAGEMENT OF BUSINESS LEADERS TO ADVOCATE CHANGE
FURTHERS OUR INTERESTS IN SEEKING ACCELERATION OF BASIC
REFORMS HERE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00200 101104Z

4. I RECOMMEND THAT WE GIVE MARAIS THE GREEN LIGHT ON THE
TRIP AND ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG, SENATOR CLARK,
THE SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY, AND YOURSELF. GOOD
TIMING WOULD BE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH.
PLEASE ADVISE.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, APARTHEID, GOVERNMENT REFORM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00200
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-1092
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770255/aaaabwrb.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 945b74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3357301
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FROM JAN MARAIS
TAGS: PGOV, OTRA, SF, US, (MARAI, JAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/945b74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009